

**Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, September 2,  
1802, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe**

Sep. 2. 1802.

Dear Sir

I now return you Clarke's & Shee's letters enclosed in yours of yesterday. Mr. Clarke's object is to save 6 cents a stock. This is proper for him as an economical manager. But you & I must see of what other aspects it is susceptible. The US have gunstocks for sale. They are to suspend the sale & lend them to the state of Virginia that she may return them in kind afterwards with a saving to himself of 6 cents a piece, in this the US will have trouble &c the accounts, delivery & receipt, suspension of sale & no benefit. This is what will be read in the volume of slander to be added to the here & ...against Virginia & against us. This is not the view which I should take; but that in the present disfavor of Virginia, she should ask for favors. She should ask not for small savings have her name or conduct dragged before the public, but pursue her own paths in silence, dignity & self-sufficiency. If the stores are of real importance, she had better buy them of the US. on the terms on which individuals would buy with her cash in hand. But if this matter appears differently to you, I will do in it what you shall on consideration desire. Accept my affectionate esteem & respect Th. Jefferson

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